

comprising at least one fabric layer comprised of fibers in a polymer matrix[; and

affixing the reinforcement layer to the internal or external surface].

a 1 16. (Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ ³ wherein the composite reinforcement layer is applied to the internal surface of the pipe wall, further comprising the steps of:

accessing the internal surface of the pipe through an existing passageway; and

cleaning the internal surface of the pipe of debris.

a 2 5 17. (Amended) The method of claim ~~16~~ ¹⁴, further comprising the step of drying the external [internal] or internal surface of the pipe prior to applying the tack coat.

a 3 18. (Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ ¹⁴ wherein the composite reinforcement layer is applied to the external surface of the pipe wall, further comprising the steps of:

excavating the pipe to expose a portion of the external surface of the pipe; and

cleaning the external surface of the pipe of debris.

Please add the following new claims:

9 21. (New) The method of claim ~~13~~, further comprising the step of:

applying a resin to the internal or the external surface of the pipe wall prior to applying the tack coat to fill irregularities in the internal or the external surface of the pipe wall.

9 10 22. (New) A method for reinforcing a wall of a pipe, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a composite reinforcement layer impregnated with a resin in an uncured state to the pipe wall so as to cover at least a portion of a surface of the pipe wall, the composite reinforcement layer comprising at least one fabric layer having fibers;

partially curing the resin impregnated within the composite reinforcement layer while in place on the surface of the pipe wall.

11 10 23. (New) The method of claim ~~22~~, wherein the reinforcement layer is held in clamped engagement with the surface of the pipe wall while the resin impregnated in the composite layer partially cures.

12 10 24. (New) The method of claim ~~22~~, wherein the composite reinforcing material is pre-formed.

13 10 25. (New) The method of claim ~~22~~ wherein the composite reinforcing layer is applied to an internal surface of the pipe wall, further comprising the steps of:

accessing the internal surface of the pipe through an existing passageway; and

cleaning the internal surface of the pipe of debris prior to applying the composite reinforcement layer to the surface of the pipe wall.

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12. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of drying the surface of the pipe prior to applying the composite reinforcement layer to the surface of the pipe wall.

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13. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the existing passageway comprises a manhole.

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12. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the layer is applied to an external surface of the pipe wall, further comprising the steps of:
excavating the pipe to expose a portion of the external surface of the pipe; and
cleaning the external surface of the pipe of debris prior to applying the composite reinforcement layer to the surface of the pipe wall.

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12. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:
applying a resin to the surface of the pipe wall prior to applying the composite reinforcement layer to fill irregularities in the surface of the pipe wall.

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12. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:
applying a tack coat to the surface of the pipe wall prior to applying the composite reinforcement layer to the surface of the pipe wall.--

[REMARKS]

Applicants thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy to Applicants' representative, Mr. John Uilkema, to interview the present application on October 13, 1998. At this time claims 13-30 are now pending.